The Member next advocated the investigation of a project for constructing a reservoir in Kannupulli valley to meet the needs of agriculture and water supply for the town. The inhabitants of Shencottah were suffering from water scarcity for 3 months every year, *viz.*, March, April and May. The sinking of wells was useless as the water in the area was brackish. The best course was to construct a reservoir in the Kannupulli valley. Though that suggestion had been made at successive sessions of the Assembly, nothing had been done so far. To carry out the proposal the Member suggested the appointment of a Committee consisting of the Executive Engineer, Quilon, the Division Peishkar and the President of the Shencottah Municipal Council, who should investigate the scheme and submit definite proposals. Two other reservoirs were also suggested on previous occasions, *viz.*, Parapar and and Muriyapanachan. The Member complained that the people were not being benefited by the midwife attached to the District Hospital at Shencottah. For a greater part of the year she was on leave or was engaged in the hospital with the result that she was not available for work among the public. In these circumstances, the Member suggested the desirability of appointing another midwife whose duty should be to visit expectant mothers and give them advice as to the best ways of child-welfare and to attend to maternity cases.

President's reply.—The present official members on the Municipal Council are the Headmaster of the local English High School and the local Medical officer. If the Council thinks that either of them may be replaced by the local P. W. D. Sub-division officer, Government will consider the matter when proposals to that effect are received from that body.

As regards the attendance of Village Panchayat Court Judges, the opinions of the High Court and the Law Officers of Government will be obtained and the matter examined.

As regards the construction of a reservoir in the Kannupulli valley, the Chief Engineer will be asked to look into the matter.

Re. the appointment of an additional midwife, the Darbar Physician says that the services of the previous incumbent have been dispensed with and a more energetic midwife has been appointed in her place and that she is doing her work properly.

With respect to the transfer of minor roads within the limits of the Municipal Council, Government will consider the question when a resolution to that effect is passed by the Municipal Council and forwarded to them.

108. Sanitation with special reference to Shencottah.

Mr. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the Perumalkulam tank which was situated in the heart of the town and in close proximity to the Travellers' Bungalow, Forest Divisional Office and the English High School, was a source of nuisance to the public and that the acquisition of the tank was an urgent necessity for improving the sanitation of the town. He pointed out that, though the question had been brought to the notice of the Government in the various sessions of the Assembly by the members elected from the Municipal Council and by the Municipal Council itself, no definite orders had been issued by the Government in the matter. The Member stated that, on a question which affected seriously the health of the town population in general and that of the school children in particular, it was highly necessary that the Government should take early steps. He suggested that the acquisition of the land irrigated by the tank should be made under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Regulation.

The next point touched upon by the Member was the necessity of acquiring additional lands for the use of the local English school. He pointed out that the present English High School compound, which was once intended to supply the needs of a Middle School, was hardly sufficient for the purposes of a High School and that the available space was occupied by buildings without sufficient space for purposes of recreation, etc. Besides, the school was situated in the midst of insanitary surroundings. In order to solve the difficulty, the Member suggested that the land surrounding the school compound be acquired as early as possible.

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The Member next stated that a triangular plot of ground lying to the east of the local Siva temple and to the south of the Hariharanadi bridge was a source of nuisance for want of a protection wall and he proposed that that bit of ground be handed over to the Devaswom Department and that department be asked to make the best use of it by filling it up and converting it into a flower garden or *nandavanam*. There were no masonry drains in the streets of Shencottah, although there were facilities for a proper system of drainage. He suggested that the P. W. D. be asked to allot a certain sum for constructing drains in the town and carrying out the works as early as possible.

As sanitary science was advancing day by day in all countries, it was necessary to include elementary hygiene as one of the compulsory subjects in the curricula of studies in the lower classes of vernacular schools. The Member next spoke on the desirability of organising a health staff consisting of experienced medical men to deliver lectures throughout the State as often as possible. The Member also proposed that a committee known as the "Health Committee" be formed, consisting of experienced non-official and sanitary officers, the President and the Vice-President of the committee being the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner respectively. That Committee should be directed to arrange for lectures being delivered on health in every taluk and such lectures should be published in the Gazette.

President's reply.—In regard to the acquisition proceedings *re.* the Perumalkulam tank, Government propose to hand over to the Municipal Council the available area of the tank bed which is *poramboke* and to acquire for the Council the neighbouring wet lands irrigated by the tank subject to certain conditions. These conditions are the following:—

(i) The Council should level up and raise the tank bed at its cost in order to lay out the same into a town extension, *i. e.*, after setting apart the area required for roads, pathways, etc., the balance area being cut up into convenient blocks and sold in auction for registry in the names of the highest bidders. The whole of the tax due on the bits so registered should go to the Government, the *taravila* realised by sale in auction being made over to the Council as compensation for the trouble and labour involved in converting the tank.

(ii) Ten acres and 97 cents of wet lands irrigated by the tank will be acquired by Government at the cost of the Council, and the probable compensation payable for the lands, *viz.*, Rs. 32,910, will be advanced by the Government as a loan to the Municipality, which should repay the principal and interest at 5 per cent. per annum in 10 equated annual instalments. The wet lands when placed in possession of the Council should be cut up into convenient plots after leaving the necessary portion required for roads, etc., and sold in auction and registered in the names of the highest bidders. The whole of the land-tax should go to the Government while the amount of *taravila minus* the loans and the interest thereon will be paid to the Council. The Municipal Council has accepted these conditions and a G. O. is under issue sanctioning the proposals.

The next point is the acquisition of lands adjoining the local English High School for boys. The matter is now under correspondence, and the needful will be done soon.

As regards handing over to the local Devaswom the triangular piece of land mentioned by you and lying to the east of the Siva temple, early steps will be taken.

Your last two points touch two different aspects of the same subject. The matter is important and the question of compulsory teaching of hygiene in the Vernacular schools of the State will come up for consideration in connection with the disposal of the report of the Curricula Revision Committee.

Regarding the construction of drains, the roads mentioned by you are four in number. One of them is the Quilon-Shencottah road and the P. W. D. will look to the construction of drains on the sides of that road alone. The others are not arterial roads and they are within the municipal limits. The drains on the sides of these roads should be attended to by the Municipality. The Municipal Council

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should pass a resolution on the subject and place concrete proposals before the Government. When that is done, Government will take the necessary action.

109. Needs of Alleppey.

Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) represented that the progress made in connection with the repair of the Alleppey Commercial canal was very slow, and that at that rate of progress it would take about twenty years for the completion of that work. The work was now proceeding from the Eastern Chungam and it had only reached Puttanangadi. The work was begun during the administration of Sir P. Rajagopalachari. It was highly necessary that the construction of the canal should proceed from the western end to the east, *i. e.*, from near the beach eastward. The Member requested that the construction of the canal might be completed as early as possible.

If the Port of Alleppey was to be of any use, it was essential that there should be more store houses. That matter had been represented to the Government on former occasions and the Dewan himself had seen the place and recognised its need. European Companies generally acquired lands near the beach and the Member said that it was folly to sell lands to such companies. The Commercial canal itself has silted up here and there. Those who understood the situation of Alleppey could not ignore the importance of that canal and it was necessary to clear it of silt.

The Member also urged the necessity of constructing a foot bridge between Marapalam and Chungam and another between the iron bridge and the church bridge.

Alleppey was a small town and the population was daily increasing. Although there were places convenient for living, such places could not be availed of owing to lack of roads to reach them. When those matters were brought to the notice of the Government, they generally referred them to the Municipality. The Municipality was not rich enough to undertake such expensive works as the construction of roads, etc. As far as possible, Government themselves should do such works without seeking the partnership of Municipalities.

Again, Alleppey was not a healthy place to live in, and to improve its sanitary condition was, in the Member's opinion, one of the duties of the Government. Dr. Alexander was investigating the diseases caused by mosquitoes and other insects. But he had not yet proceeded to Alleppey. There were many places in Alleppey where mosquitoes and other dangerous insects throve, and it was necessary that a doctor should be sent to investigate the subject. As Alleppey was a port, a town-planning officer should be appointed there. The Member stated in conclusion that the work of the Haripad-Ambalapuzha road should be completed.

President's reply.—With regard to the speedy completion of the Commercial Canal works, the Chief Engineer says that these works will be expedited. It will be started from the pier end when the next section is taken up, and if possible, work will be arranged for in both directions.

Re. the construction of more godowns, Government have ordered that estimates should be prepared. Government will ask the Chief Engineer to expedite the submission of the estimates.

As regards the removal of silt in the unimproved portion of the canal Government will issue orders to the P. W. D. to maintain the Commercial Canal properly, and keep it clear of silt.

With respect to the construction of foot bridges on the Commercial Canal, Government have already said that the Municipality should consider such subjects relating to municipal areas and make definite recommendations to Government. You will have to pass a resolution in your Municipal Council on the matter and send it up to the Government for their consideration.

With regard to the construction of roads also, I may tell you that, in a matter like this, the Municipality should take the initiative.

The next point you referred to was the deputation of a Medical Officer (you mentioned the name of Dr. Alexander) to investigate the cause of the diseases men-

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